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The Autobiography of

Rev. John Craig

Founder and Pastor of

Augusta Stone Presbyterian Church

and

Tinkling Spring Presbyterian Church

in the

Valley of Virginia

1740-1774

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Note on flyleaf:

3-17-69

This is a sort of preface to my little book, written by my great grandfather John Craige.

The first leaf was lost in loaning it to friends; all that I remember about the beginning was that when a little child his parents noted a difference in him and the rest of the children in regard to devotion. He would go in secret to pray to his Heavenly Father to make him good. And they resolved to watch him and give him an education to prepare him for the ministery, if he was called by the Spirit of God.

--Mrs. Nancy A Childs

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(page 2 lost)

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(In the absense of pages 1 & 2 in the original, the following is copied from Foote's Sketches of Virginia, Series II, p.28, and inserted here. H.M.W.)

A preacher preaching to himself from a long text of no less than sixty years:
On review of past life.

I was born August 17th, 1709, in the parish of Dunagor, County Antrim, Ireland, of pious parents, the child of their old age, tenderly loved, but in prudent government, and by early instructions in the principles of religion as I was capable of receiving them, which had strong effects on my young and tender mind, (being then about five or six years of age,) and engaged me to fly to God with prayers and tears in secret, for pardon, peace, guidance and direction, while in the world, and to fit me for death; And what appears strange to me now, the just thoughts and expressions that were given to me, and the strict care of my conduct, lest in my childish folly, I should sin against God; and the correct desire I had to know more of God and my duty to him, made me diligent, and the task easy, to learn to read the word of God, which then and ever since gave me great delight and pleasure: and though I endeavored to conceal my little religious exercises and acts of devotion, my affectionate and tender parents discovered my conduct, and turn of mind, and thrist after knowledge, which raised in them pleasing hopes, and engaged them contrary to their former design, to bestow upon me a liberal education.

Here, O my Soul! look Back, See, and Seriously think of the deep obligations thou art under to God for his Love Care and Goodness to thee in all these cases mentioned But especially for Christ, ye Saviour ye very foundation and fountain of all Joy Comfort & Consolation and true Satisfaction, in all other Gifts & Blessings that heaven Grants thee; has opened thy way to heaven at the price of his own precious blood, Cast thy lot in ye very Road to it; made all provision needfull for thy Journy, and his Spirit waiting Ready to be thy Guide, Early lead thee in ye way--oh! Canst thou think of ye Days of thy Espousal, ye Joy of thy heart when thou went on thy way Rejoicing--and not Be ashamed yea Grieved at the hearts for thy present Heavy Slow heartless progress in ye wa heaven-wards and now & then Casting a fearfull Eye a faint hearted Look, at that Grim faced all Conquering Enemy Death.

O my God perfect what thou hast Early begun in me, oh Let me lean upon thee thou, thou alone art the only beloved of my Soul keep my love Stead to thee, & be thou Ever Near me, Drive away all my fears, give me true And Saving faith in thee & in they promises & strengthen help & uphold me in life & thro Death by ye right hand of thy Righteousness foresake me not or I am undone for Ever, Save me or I perish, O Grant these to me for Christ Sake.

But pass not this Stage of thy life wherein So happy a foundation was laid till thou fully impress on thy mind, Gods love mercy & Goodness to thee. observe thou had no choice of ye Age or place of ye world where to be born or of what parents but See O mark well how happy a choice thy God has made for thee both

With Respect to time & place when & where heathen Ignorance & Barbarities are no more, and popish cruelties Rak Stake & flames for Sake of conscience and cause of Christ was at an End. And Episcopal zeal for conformity Bartholow Days five mile acts; fine for preaching & hearing ye word of God, Prisons Butes of pine Thumekins the helter & gallows & the like acts of cruelty acted in thy fathers Day & before it; the Blood and Sufferings of many thousands for the cause of Christ & a Good Conscience had glutted ye Bloodthirsty appetites; & cooled and quenched that Devouring fiery zeal in ye Brittish Dominions before thou was Born

But God gave thee thy lot in ye morning of Britains union and most flourishing State when & where peace liberty of conscience to protestants prevailed over all ye Brittish Dominions. Yea ye very Parish where thou was Born, was at that time Remarkable for the Modest Sober Religious conduct of the people inhabiting that place, & for a faithfull able & Diligent Pastor ye Rev'd Alexander Brown whose Name is Ever Dear to thee

Had thy lot been an age or two Sooner how wouldst thou maintained a Good Conscience against all these temptations & fiery trials, Not only ye spoiling of Goods cut to Blood? how would thy faith & Patience have stood such horrid shocks as these?---but in thy Day all these steep & high Mountains Dreadfull precipeses Devouring Swalowing Gulfs in the way, are happily made plain & smooth.

O my Soul See the Goodness of God to thee in all this; no part thine and wilt thou not improve & praise him for his mercies.

wilt thou now linger & Delay, Devert & please thy fancy on ye pleasant Road. oh See, See Gods care for thee; and love to thee thine own unworthyness of it--Up, Run, Rest not till thou Rest in the Bosom of Divine love Thou began Early & well what Should hinder thee Now when Near ye End of thy course; thy Day is far Spent but a little & thou must lodge this Body of thine in the Silent Grave where there is no labor there the weary are at Rest, and thou, O my Soul, appear before thy Judge & Receive thine Eternal Doom. oh See thou neither weary nor faint in the way its now short.

O Most mercifull God in Christ to me a poor Sinner thou hast Early won my heart & gained my consent to love thee: I have by all the ways & means I knew sincerely Endeavour'd to yeild up my heart to thee at thy Desire.--Lord thou knowest.--But alas I have always found it deceitfull treacherous and Backsliding, willing to follow many lovers But Lord as thou hast won it, oh keep, keep it thou hast ye first Right in Every Sense & ye Best & I own my first Rational Consent to love, was to love thee, my Dearest Lord, above all things Else. Lord let none, Nothing pluck me, my heart out of thy hand. most unworthy as it is thou Lord canst make it worthy & capable to Glorify & Enjoy thee O mercifull God with humility shame and sorrow. I again adventure Now to present to thee my heart put it in the hand of ye loving Jesus, Such as it now is old Seared hard heavy loaded with Sin & Guilt, Blessed Lord Soften cleanse & Ease it of its Burden make it capable of receiving ye impression of thine own images for thy care love & Goodness Especially Christ

the Bases of all my hopes as a Sinner, for mercy, and all the Benefits of his purchase

O my God make me truely sensible of thy Great Goodness in ordering my lot, without my choice, in pleasant times & places; & for the means of Grace I have Enjoy'd and the hopes I yet Enjoy by them as ye means Bountifull God and father in X, I come to thee under the pressing weight of Distress want & poverty crying give, give, for Christ Sake. Give me a principle of New life--clear light,--faith in exercise flaming love.--Sincere Repentance--Steady and Resigned patience to thy will.--Courage and Strength to Run the Race Set before me: oh be thou my Strength & Righteousness; to Support me against the fears,--and under the Panges of Death.--and that I may appear cloathed in that righteousness before My Judge without Spot or wrinkle Glorious within & without. O Grant me these Requests for ye Sake of thy only Son, my Dear Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

But to Return to ye historical Review of my life. when I was Sent to School to learn ye languages a New Scene opened to me which before I was a stranger too: having never Seen ye vice folly and wickedness that So much prevail in the world: yea Some of my Schoolfelows not hesitating, as it suited their tempers & Interest in their little trifling concerns; to lie cheat curse swear and profane ye Sabbath quarrel fight &c--- which made Sin appear to me more odious & hatefull;

and God more Mercifull longsuffering and patient that Spared them than formerly it had Done.---this made me pray more Earnestly that God would keep me from falling in with these vices; and made me More carefull never to Make any my intimate companions if I knew to be vicious & wicked--And made me Diligent to improve the Sabbath in private Devotion, and attending publick worship;--and to Strengthen me against ye follies & vanity So insnaring to my Young & cheerfull mind.

About ye fourteenth or fifteen year of my age I went to ye Rev'd. Alexander Brown who Baptiz'ed me and after Examination Admitted me to ye Lords Table which prov'd a mighty support against temptations and gave much Delight comfort and consolation. Many a Sweet communion Sabbath I Enjoyed in my Native country, Sometimes brought to the Banqueting house under ye Banner of love-Ravished with love. And for all this wanted not my thorn in the flesh which often brought me very low.

As to my conduct & Diligence for the Space of Eight or Nine years at School I never Received one Stroak or So much as a Sharp Rebuke from all the Masters I was With; But Still gained ye favour of them all.---I Spent Some years after Reading Algebra, Mathematicks, Logicks, Metaphysicks, pneumaticks, Ethicks, under ye care of able masters Geography & history both Ecclesiastick and prophane & then went to Scotland to the College at Endenburgh & attained ye Degree of Master of arts Anno Domini 1732. February sixth

As above observed in ye first Eight or Nine years of thy life God was.

Graciously pleased to

lay ye happy foundation of virtue & piety in thy mind, without much Resistance being then pliable & tender.—But oh Strange to think of it! what obstinate Resistance was made to ye Spirit of God in his carrying on ye work of Grace, and a life of holiness in ye next twelve or thirteen years of thy life.——These Enemies appearing in their turns——Pride, Self conceit accompany'd with Ignorance, passions, lusts, appetites, A Rebelious Will, yea ye whole Army of Natural corruptions, Evil company, love to vanity and vain World,---and to Strengthen all Satan by his insinuations & temptations, A constant prompter to Every Sinfull wicked inclination all these under the appearance of friends to thee active to please thy corrupt mind. the Enemies to Christ and thy Soul apposed the operations of the Spirit of God in thy Soul keenly labouring to Smother or quench it——what powerfull Enemies are these till Christ Subdue & Restrain them Discover their Deceit & Danger, Make the Soul hate & abhor them & fly from them.

O my Soul look Back & See the many Sharp Sore and bitter conflicts--and ye different Success, that accompany'd that long but most important warfare.——how many Days & Nights hast thou been wrestling by tears and prayers to God thro Christ, for help & Strength, light & Direction how to obtain a victory over these Enemies of thy Soul and if God had not guarded thee from these vices Sins and follies to which thou lay open & Exposed

and inticed & tempted to, by Evil company thine own corruptions & Satan ye common & constant Enemy and given thee Reviving times of comfort & consolation thou must have Sunk under the Stream & been carried away with the Torrent.---tho alas for it thou hast been too often vanquished, overcome taken captive by Sin & Satan!---but Never Did the Spirit of God Suffer thee to Rest in that State or be in love with thy Bondage & Chains: but gave New Strength & Courage to wage war afresh, with more humilty, less Self Dependance, a firmer Resting on Christ for Strength & Righteousness, more convinced of thy own weakness & inablity

Take Notice O my Soul of ye many & Deep obligation, thou Standest in to ye mercefull God, who So happily guided thee thro ye Slippry paths of youth, So far preserved thee from ye many Snares & temptations that lay in thy way; or when overcome, Never Suffered thee to Rest or be content, under the Reigning power of Sin; but brought thee to a Speedy Repentance, & to maintain a constant war with Sin, all Sins as thine & Gods Enemies.

Let these thoughts Rouse thee Now, who Should Be a Skilfull & Eperienced wariour, acquainted with both ye Subtilty & Strength of the Enemy O Sink Not Now in Sloath or under any Discouragments!--there are Good hopes of a final compleat and Glorious victory shorly, perhaps very Soon Stand Now to thine Arms, play ye man, Never give way, press forwards, beat Down ye Strong holds of Sin, & habits of vice & wickedness; and Even

now in old age under ye Declines of Nature, lose not thy toil labour & Sufferings, in the field of war, and Glory of all past victories, and Sink in Endless Disgrace and Misery. Thy loving & Dearest Lord & Captain will Support, while he commands & incourages See both in these words. Be thou faithful unto Death and I will give thee a Crown of life

O father of mercy ye fountain of all Good, Make me truely thankfull to thee for that mercy Goodness & care, thou hast taken for me-Especially in my Days of foolish childhood & Youthfull vanity. O Remember Not the Errors of My Youth but foregive them all for Christs Sake and in him Now Accept of me a poor Guilty Sinner Oh Give Strength & Courage Now when Nature fails to fight ye Good fight of faith and to finish my course with Joy; Not fearing Even the King of terrors thro Christ his Conquerer ye Captain of my Salvation, ye foundation of all my hopes and ye Purchaser of present Comfort and future. Joy & Glory for me, & all that truely believe in his name-make me faithfull to Death that So I may truely Expect life from thee. And to ye three one thro Christ be all Glory Now & thro Endless Eternity Amen.

Again to Return to ye historical account of my life When I left my Native Country & went to Scotland being then amoung Strangers, I Soon Discover'd the loss of being Distant from all these whose conversation counsel & Directions had been most pleasant

and profitable to me; this made me with More Earnestness fervency & frequency apply to God, who had formerly Supported Guided & Directed me that he would continue to Do me Good, and Bless me in my lawfull Designs, & give Success to my Endeavours to fit me for his Service in ye world. And on my part was carefull in choosing my companions, frugal as to my Expense, Diligent in my Studies, was happy in all these cases took out my Degrees & and in my way home, went to See & be acquainted with Some of my Relations in Scotland, among others an old uncle and Aunt, for this uncle I was Named, and he Design'd me his Heir of a little laird-Ship worth about Sixty pounds a year as I was told having No children of their own.--they were kind to me, and offer if I would Stay with them and See them Decently Buried at their own Expence they would leave me Heir of their Estate and they were Each of them between 80 & 90 years of age. I expressed my obligation to them thankfully and told them I had very affectionate & loving Parents which had Done a great Duty for me, and that I must consult with them before I could leave them for their approbation, which I believ'd to be my Duty. this Answer pleased them well So I took my farewell & came home in Aprile 1732.

I found my Dear Parents & Relations all well to my Great Satisfaction & Stay'd with them about two years in which time I was Sorely Distress'd in body and mind how to Stear my course thro the world So as to please God, Do Good to man, and to

Secure my own Eternal happiness,---As to the world & my Support in it My prospect was promising Enough, My fathers patrimony having Now portioned of all his children but my Self & yet Rich considered as a farmer, and My Uncle's Estate

But all this could Not Satisfy my Mind, Nor answer the Ends of my long labour & Studies which had Steadily been with a view to the ministry (if it pleased God to qualify me for it and call me to it) But when I was at the college I heard ye flouts, & Saw the affronts cast at ye mess Johns (ye phrase there used to Express the Students of Divinity) and being more able to Discover ye weight charge of that office, these together with the low opinion I had conceived of my own abilities for Such an important office had now changed my mind Intirely from that office or any Desire after it.

Now ye mind Rov'd a New plan was laid & with keeness Entered upon. I Resolved the Next year to attend ye Phisicians hall, Setting apart from 9 to 12 oclock Every Night whilest others Deverted themselves or Slept, to Read Kichs anatomy & other helps to fitt me for my Next years Design. My chamber meat was pursueing that Study which was a Great help to me in my Design but this I kept closs from my Parents and all my Relations which I knew would not approve of it Nor Support ye charge with this view, and So I Design'd to Deceived them to procure a Support under ye Design to Study Divinty more fully .

this was ye true cause of my affliction & Distress of mind which brought me very low but Secret to all. but as I kept it secret God Saw it & punished me openly in Such a manner as I could See my Sin in the very correction for it; & Now bless God for it

When I came home I brought the itch with me to cure my Self of this Disorder, I would try my new Skill to blood & take Phisick; I was bleed by a friend knowing & well Experienced in that business; but after Some Days ye orifice fester'd and Swel'd about ye Bulk of an hazel Nut threw me into a fever which continued ten Days; the orifice in that time got well, but my whole arm and hand Swel'd to a wonderfull Size; various means were used and ye Swelling Declin'd & went away I thought all was well (but all that did not yet humble me) ye whole arm instantly swel'd again to an higher pitch than before, ye pain more Exquisite turn'd Black ye Skin feeless and in a week ye Sweling Sized on ye body Back & Breast Swel'd high, and I think within also, which made me whise in breathing to be heard out of Doors---All hope of life was now lost by myself, & all that Saw me, believing it to be a Mortification & Now past cure having Sized ye Body, and that in a few hours I must be in Eternity, altho my pain was great beyond Expression, I Still Enjoy'd my Reason but what ~~was~~ were all these pains to ye agonies of ye mind then conscience Roar'd like a Devouring Lyon, and in a most Sharp and terrible manner accusing me of my Deceitfull & unsteady Dealing with God .

Before whom I expected instantly to appear, and to cheat & grieve the hearts of my loving & affectionate parents then Standing weeping over me, pitying & lamenting my Sufferings, tho' they knew but little of the Dreadfull Agonies I was then labouring under their tears but increased my Misery as knowimg my Secret Designs Rendered me unworthy of their love then was I fully convinced of ye Evil of my New Design and that God had taken me in the trap in the very way of life I Designed to follow, & to cut me off in it; Because my Pride Ease and liberty to live at large, had lead me off from the Desire of Serving him in ye way I had Resolved upon, as laborious Difficult and a Despised office amongest ye fashionable part of the world. Now ye mask was taken off and I was fully convicted of my fault;--this was a Dreadfull crisis of life to me! And as a Guilty Humble Penitent brought me to the Throne of Grace for mercy & free Grace, Sincerely confessing Sin, Earnestly Asking pardon, firmly Resolving & promising amendment if ye mercifull God would Grant life & Days.

My Request was offered up thrd Christ in Great Earnest but weak faith; I could Say I Desired life but could not Say I had hopes of life.--but Goodness and mercy in God to me; was above & beyond my Expection and weak hopes; he was my Physician when given up by men Removed all ye Danger in a few Days, to my admiration & Joy, and happilly fixed my Mind on My first Design curing ye Disease of body & mind at one. Gave me ye use of my hand & arm as before.—I was about Six months under this correction and I hope it answered the End to me.---

Being Now willing to Serve God in any office Station or Relation he pleased to fit me for & call me too; or in any place where he pleased to Send me. Patrimony & Estate had then little weight in my mind being well covinced that God who Saved my life from Death, would Support it whilst he had any Service for it. So I cast my Self upon his care and Earnestly pray'd for his Direction.

America was then Much in my mind accompany'd with this Argument, that Service would be most pleasing and acceptible, where most Needfull & wanting, which rais'd in me a Strong Desire to See that part of ye world

But I had Resolved Never to be Rash in determining affairs of weight importance any more, and began to think of that affair Deliberately. To leave my Dear and most affectionate Parents Now very old, my Relations acquaintances & Sweet companions Some of them very Dear to me with all my prospects of a way of living and thousands of Dangers & Difficulties appearing in ye way which appear'd hard to Get over, but for these things, my mind was Determined believing it to be my Duty to venture thro all opposition I consulted my parents & friends who Did not much hinder my Design but grieved at my thoughts of leaving them but above all I Earnestly Cry'd to God for his Direction that he would Restrain or Encourage me as he Saw would tend to his Glory & my happiness. Still my mind was Steady.

At that time I had a Dream or vision Representing to me; as it were in Minature the whole that has happened to me of any ~~importance~~ these thirty five years yea the very place I have been Settled in these thirty years, I knew it at first Sight & have Done here what was Represented to me there.--But thought little of it then, tho often of it Since.--My mind being fully Settled & Determined; I prepared for my long voyage--

How Strangly hast thou been Mistaken in longing for the State of manhood or Maturity? and Disappointed of the happiness thou Expected from that age & State of life? Concluding that then, Body and mind would be Ripe for the Service of God and man, Steady, free, and independent, active & able to go thro the Duties of Religion and life without boundage or Restraint free from Doubts & Distress of mind knowing thy Duty But Sad Experience taught thee ye vanity of Such hopes: when thou ariv'd at that age & State of life: And look'd into ye world, Saw the Numerous ways, offices, & Imployments Busy mankind was Engaged in to obtain a Support in the world; and Striving Day & Night to attain the honors profits & pleasures of it; and the vast Difficulty and many Disappointments which accompany Every Employment, office, & course of life, & none More than the office of a Gospel Minister.---here ten thousand Distressing perplexing confusing thoughts crouded in upon thy weak mind, it became as a little child weak and affraid of Every thing & could do Nothing--- here God began to Show thee thine own weakness, to try thy faith, Shake thy Self confidence & Dependence on thine own wisdom wit and Strength--- here thy faith fail'd frighted at the Difficulties & Dangers in the way. Now wanders from it, took thine own way, & Determined to follow it, here Discovering the unsteadiness of thy mind & its Deceit & vanity.---for, from ye time thou went to School till Now, to please thy God, to grow in Grace & knowledge to fit thee for his Serviee in the office of ye Ministry, was all thy aim Desire & Design, and this was always thy most ~~Earnest~~ prayer & cry to God, to prosper thee in that Good Design and he Denyed thee of nothing to answer that End--and now thou wouldst if thou couldst have done it Deceived thy God, thy parents, and thy Self too, had God Suffered thee to follow thine own Resolutions, where wou'd they lead thee

at last?--But when love mercy & kindness would Do no longer, the Rod, ye Sharp Rod on body & mind, must be Exercise by the hand of a compassionate father, to bring thee to a Sense of Sin& Evil and a Ready compliance with Duty

Bless God O my Soul for Such corrections, and the Sanctify'd use of them, the Sure tokens of Gods love & care.

That God has cut out thy lot the time, place, and means of thy Being, the bounds of thy habitation; the How, When, & Where, to Serve ye Ends of thy generation Designed by him, is clear from Scripture testimony.---the first part of thy lot Seems to be filled up by his own hand Immediately without thy choice or will, till Reason began to operate. and ye Remainder of thy lot, by thine own Desire will & choice, but Still under government his General Goverment whereby he Excites, permitts and Restrains Every choice So as to fill up that lot Even by thine own will & choice So that ye acts becomes properly thine own, having thy assent & consent to them.--- but here is a Secret in providence how thou came to See insuperable Difficulties where there ~~was~~ were ye fairest probabilities, and to pass by Real lawfull interests & comforts Enjoyed and in prospect; and to pursue thro all Difficulties, Dangers, and certain sufferings; an entirely uncertain-- Something thou knew not what--as far Distant as America. and by thine own free will & choice too. Can this appear to be the actings of Reason or Rather Some Secret, but Strong Impulse upon ye mind, to fill up ye Designs of providence in thy lot.--but this Experience taught thee when thou left thy Native Country and father's house yea all that was Sweet & Delightfull to thee.--But God had work for thee Elsewhere and Enabled thee to comply with ye call of his providence tho thou knew not where thou was going, but Still

with a Dependence on him & a Real Design to Serve him

But O my Soul, See, thou hast a voyage before thee of infinitly more importance than ye former, to ye world of Spirits. And thou knowest not ye Day or hour when the awfull alarm Shall Sound in thine Ears, that wind is fair ye anchor weighed ye Sails hoisting, come take thy passage to Endless Eternity. ah no Shifting a tide here aboard thou must Go Nature beginns to call alone

Prepare therefore with all Speed O my Soul, be Ready wean the heart from wife, children, Relations thy Dear charge ye church militant ye world of mankind be Ready to take farewell a long farewell of all leaving them in the hands & to the care of thy God wishing their truest happiness, and get thy debts paid Sea Shore Ready viz Sin pardoned, faith in Christ, lively & in Exercise Daily increasing; an heart inflamed with love, to ye loving & lovely Jesus that he may wash thee in his Blood; impress his own image on thee; and cloath thee. With the Robe of his own Righteousness and So present thee fair & without Spot or wrinkle before his & thy heavenly father.—happy happy voage to thee, if thus prepared.---but o my Soul Doest thou not Now Grieve lament & bewael that thou hast So long & grievously Sinned against thy God & Done So little for his Glory. O Double Diligence & Redeem time tho Now Short, let thy last Days be thy best Days & thy last Song the Sweetest.- -

Eternal & almighty God, ye Creator of ye Universe, who Rules & over Rules all ye Events there in thou art My God by creation Dedication preservation & personal covenant Relation, Make me thine by Renovation and Sanctification, & thro faith in Christ make me one of thy happy & honorable children precious in thy Sight

O heavenly father in Christ I now praise thee with all my heart thou Early win its love & hast been ye Guide of my youth thy love care & Bounty never fail'd, & as a loving and tender parent took Notice of my pride vice & folly chastised & corrected me Yet took not thy lovingkindness from me But Delivered me from ye Gates of Death, ye Graves cruel and Devouring Mouth Sanctifyed the corrections, brought to a sense of Sin Ignorance weakness & folly, humbled me low in mine own Sight brought me to Repentance and firm Resolutions of New obedience a chearfull Resignation to thy will to Serve thee how, when, & where, thou pleas'd to call me with a firm dependence on thy promise of the holy Spirit to guide Direct Support & comfort while in this world. Glory in the highest to my God, who Not withstanding of all my Shortcomings & provoking backslidings from thee, thou hast not left me to my Self but by various chastisments & kind Restraints and many comfortable providences, and constant striving of the holy Spirit Still calling after me, to this Day Return my Backsliding child I will heal thy Backslidings O My God for Christs Sake, Give, O Give me an heart to Say Sincerly behold I come unto thee for thou art the Lord My God, Grant will & strength to do it cheerfully oh leave me Not Now when old age Steals in upon me but hold me up with ye Right hand of thy Righteousness wean my heart from the world & all its Sensual pleasures & Delights-Dearest Lord arm me to meet the king of terrors with courage; he is thy captive, & Messenger let his Sting & terror be taken away; let him be the welcome messenger at thy command to call me from a world of misery to thy kingdom of Glory purchased by thy Blood for thine, all that believe in thy name there I Shall be one Monument of thy Richest mercy love & Goodness, to ye Eternal Glorly of thy free & unmerited Grace to poor Sinners of whom I am the Chief, but yet thine O Save me for thy Glories Sake Amen.--------

The continuation of ye Historical Review of my life

Having taken farewell of my friends & country (no Easie task) we went on board at Learn June:10:1734 and in ye kind providence of God landed all Safe at New Castle on Delaware ye 17th of August following being born in ye old World & landed in the New the very Same Day of ye year & hour of ye Day which I then observed. in the Passage I was Sore afflicted with Sea Sickness which brought me very low; but Recovered both health & Strength before I came a Shore. I Escaped a very Eminent danger of being lost in a manner almost miraculous without any mean but ye kind hand of providence being accidentally cast over board in a Dark & tempestuous Night, lay as on a bed of Down on my back, on the Raging Wave which tost'd me back on ye Ship's Side where I found holds & Sprung aboard & None aboard knew of it Nor Did I Speak of to any while at Sea.--this Evidence of Divine care I ought Ever to Remember with a Gratefull & thankfull heart to his praise & Glory who made the proud wave a bed but Not a Grave to Swallow me up without Remidy

When I came ashore I mett with an old acquaintence the Rev'd Benjamin Campbell then Minister of New Castle he had been in the country Some years, and was very kind & friendly to me in Every Respect; he was a very Judicious Gentleman, Gave Me a just account of the country, and with care advised me to Seek a living in a healthy place of the country tho poor, gave me an account of the Ministry & of men of parts among them which turn'd out Greatly to my advantage he was then Agueish, & Died about two Months after Greatly to my Grief.

The Synod of Philadelphia mett in September 1734 where I attended having Several letters of Recommedation from Ministers in Ireland to their correspondents ministers here, and then had an opportunity to Deliver them, they were of Service to me for the ministers used me as well as a Stranger could Expect on that account--

It Gave me both Grief & Joy to See that Synod, Grief to See their Small Number & mean appearance, Joy to See their mutal love, & Good order; & men of Solid Sense among them & Steady to ye Presbyterian Principles & against all innovations which began to appear at this Synod from an overture Read publickly by the Rev'd: Gilbert Tennent concerning the Receiving of candidates into the Ministry & communicants to the Lords table & which he imbibed from one Mr. Freelinghouse a low Dutch Minister which Notions was then openly Rejected, but afterwards prevail'd So far as to Divid the Synod & put ye church of God here into ye utmost confusion not yet Rooled out tho Endeavoured

I now wanted a fixed Residence, finding it unsafe unprofitable & Expensive to wander about. But to find a place healthy where I could gain my Bread and be under ye care of a minister able to help me was at that time very Difficult.---this I Endeavored to find at Several places and times for three months, but Still fail'd, which Greatly Distress'd my Mind as if God Seem'd to frown upon me and bring me to Misery in a Strange country among Strangers and vexed me with thoughts of Returning home, as if God had No Service for me here, but Such was the love of God to me a poor Stranger that he would not Suffer me to Settle, but where I had all the things Desired to answer the Good End I had in view; I saw here that a Steady Dependence on God far Exceeds human Wisdom

he at last brought me to a healthy place, an home, a maintainance, a faithfull & able friend a Sincere Christian ye Rev'd: John Thompson of Chesnut level whose praise is Deservedly in ye church, as being ye instrument in the hand of God of forming her into an organized Body here, & Defending her while he lived

Now I began to foreget my Sorrow having my home with a poor but a kind Stranger, and ye Sweet and improving conversation of So Good & kind a friend here I liv'd in love & peace till ye year 1739 and then Remove to Augusta County in ye colony of Virginia

I taught School one year, and Read two years more. Being Still affraid to Engage in So weighty a work & office; But being invited by ye Presbytery of Dunegal in Pensilvania in ye year 1737, but was Still more affraid to undertake ye charge of a congregation tho I had Several calls Given me, till I was Sent to a new Settlement in Virginia of our own country people near 300 Miles Distant.--they were Encouraged to Settle there by ye honorable Sr. William Gooch then Governour of Virginia a Good man & a father to the frontiers in the colony who allow them the Benefit of the Act of tolleration.---No Presbyterians being settled as an organized body in the colony Since it was first Settled that I heard of. from ye Dream I had before I left Ireland when I came to ye Settlement knew it to be the plot in Christs vineyard where I was to labour (I must Say I thought but little of it which perhaps was my Sin) from them I had a call & Durst Not Refuse it altho I well Saw that it would Be attended with many & Great Difficulties; but Seing

this So clearly to be ye call of providence, & if I Should not Despise ye Day of Small things, & that he could perfect his Strength in my weakness, Granting Every Necessary qualification Gift & Grace, for carrying on his own work and Support ye agent called by him to Do ye work, under went Difficulty & Danger falling in the way while faithfull thus with a steady Dependence on God for light and Direction, aid and assistance, prudence & understanding I accepted their call passed ordination trials & was ordain'd as their Pastor & Received by their Commisioners in Dunegal the last of August 1740.

Look Back, O my Soul, with wonder & admiration, on the wisdom & Goodness of God, who So happily connected the various Dispensations of his providence; that mercy love & tender care appears in the whole; as also a wise Discipline to train up & inure by Degrees for more trying Dispensations that Might fall in thy lot; as thy Sore affliction while aboard ye Ship, was a mean Reason to prevent thy going home, when So much Discouraged for want of a Residence Suited to thy Designs.---Gods care of thee when lying on the tempestuous waves was a Strong argument with thee that he would not leave or foresake thee in an In habited country.---thou hast Seen, he would not give a Residence till he brought thee to ye very place thou Earnestly wish'd and pray'd for.--tho thou couldst hardly believe that there was Such an opportunity to be had in ye country

having Devoted thy Service to God in ye ministerial office if he call'd thee to it thou then Saw ye labour great ye Support Small, ye charge heavy ye Esteem And authority little. this had its affects on thy mind

to which add the fair prospect thou hadst of making a fortune in the Merchandizing way in a Sober Religious family & perhaps ye most wealthy in the Province. these were No Small temptations. Yet God assist thee to overcome all, to Engage in the Service of God and trust him for thy Support which he never fail'd in to this Day but has granted to thee Agur's prayer

O Lord, the Eternal God, almighty in power, infinite in wisdom wonderfull in working; help me thy creature with Admiration holy Reverance, high Esteem, true love & Regaurd to See thee ye true God in thy works of creation providence & Redemption, in all wc thou shines most Gloriously.--I am the work of thy hands have been ye Steady care of thy providence; o make me an object of thy Redeeming love a monument of Rich mercy & free grace Displayed in my Eternal Salvation thro the Lord Jesus Christ---thou created me in a land of light where I was taught to know ye thee & thy Revealed will inclined my heart to leave my Native Soil, let me See thy Great wonders in ye Deep, and feel ye care of thy providential hand in preserving me from the Dangers of it in a most Sensible Manner brought me to a large land of liberty & plenty, gave me favour & friends from & among Strangers, provided food & Raiment for me, wisely Directed me in all my ways, Strengthened me against many temptation, call'd me to an honorable Service, to which I had long since

Devoted my Self measured out the plot in thy wineyeard where

I Should labour nor Ever fail'd me in thy work I beseach thee O My God in Christ, to impress on my mind a constant firm Stead feeling Sense of thy amazing love Mercy Goodness care & Bouty to me a Guilty Bounty Sinner; and let the Remembrance of these Daily fill my heart with Gratitude & my mouth with ye high praises of thee my God, fill my heart with love to thee increase my faith & Dependence on thee Raise My hopes & Encourage My heart to persevere in thy Service against all opposition till Death, O fit & prepare Me for that hour and bear me up (as thou Did on the wave when My hope was lost) passing thro ye unknown Agonies of Death in the arms of thy mercy, and Make me meet for a more perfect Service to thee & a more complete enjoyment of thee. And Let ye Glory be to thy holy Name, thro' Christ, for Ever Amen

This is ye last Scene of my life to the End of my 60th year to which all ye preceding part was but as a preparative as to labour, trials, temptations, Griefs, Dangers, losses, crosses &c 1769

when I came to the people of my charge they Received me in the Most friendly manner, whose friendShip (Except a very few) continued Steady these thirty years to our Mutual comfort. In this I have been Most happy. but Destitute of all conversation Direction or Advice of 1770

Fathers or Brethern for more than ten years being about 200 Miles from ye Nearest Presbyterian Minister the place was a New Settlement, with out place of worship, or any church order, A wilderness in a proper Sense and a few Christians Settled in it, with

Numbers of the Heathen traveling among us, but Generally civil tho Some people were Murdered by them about that time. they March in Small companies from twenty to fifty Sometimes more or less. they must be Supply'd at any house they call at with victuals or they become their own Stuarts & cooks Spairing Nothing they chuse to Eat or Drink in the house and carries with them bread and Meat as they please which was troubleSome Expensive & Sometimes Dangerous for they Go all Arm'd for war in their way.

A company passing kill'd Some cattle & horses, Some neighbours Mett went & Enquired Why they Did So? Ye Indians Gave them No Answer, but fir'd upon y^{m} the English Returned ye fire made ye Indians give way; in that Skirmish Eight men of ye English were kill'd & Severals wounded, & fifteen of ye Indians was kill'd, ye Rest fled. ye unExpected News Ran Swiftly thro ye Settlement which Greatly alarmed all the Inhabitants Next Day a more Dreadfull Alarm came of 500 Indians at ye lower End of ye Settlement murdering all they could find about ten miles off the people gathered together & all y^{t} could carry arms went to meet them & happily found ye Report false but ye cries of women & children left without any Defence to Depend on was very Shocking to me the times was Distressing, as we were far from Lidon few of ourSelves & fewer to Espouse our cause heartily for these Difficulties I was obliged to bear a part.---

Another thing that gave me Great concern, was how to Act So as to maintain Presbyterian order & Rules of Goverment in our church & So as not to Give offence to ye Establish Church, and Goverment with whom I had to Do. and in this case Providence ordered Matters So that I obtain'd their approbation & Esteem

when we were Erected into a county & parish, and had ministers inducted, of whihc we had two they both in their turns wrote to me Making high Demands, I gave no Answer but Still observed our own Rules where there was No positive law against them.----

Another Distressing affair to me being alone was the Division of our Church, having Seen ye conduct of ministers and People when I was in Pensilvania, that Maintained these New Doctrines, Examined ye contraversie, had free conversation with both parties apply'd to God for light and Direction in y^{t} important concern, which was Done with time & Deliberation, Not Instantly; I attain'd clearness of Mind to Join in ye protest against these New and uncharitable opinions & ye Ruin of Church Goverment

Pensylvania

This Gave offence to Some two or three families in my congregation; who then look'd upon me as an opposer of ye work of God, as they call'd it an Enemy to Religion &c. And apply'd with all keeness to their holy & Spiritual teachers, to come & preach & convert the people of my charge & free them from Sin & Satan and from me a carnal wretch, upon whom they unhappily Depended for instruction to their Souls utter Destruction.—- they flying Speedily came and thunder'd their New Gospel thro Every corner of my congregation, & Some of them had ye assurance to come to my house & Demand a Dismission for Some of my Subscribers who had invited them being tented with these Notions formerly; but Providence So ordered that affair y^{t} they Gain'd None of my people more that I know of, my moral character Stood clear & Good Even among them but they freely loaded me with these and ye like poor, blind, carnal hypocritecal Damn'd wretch this given to my face by Some of their Ministers

and when I administered ye Lords Supper to my people they mockingly Said to their Neighbours going to it, what are you Going to Craig' frolick?---I thought then that God had given me a Difficult plot to labour in alone, among Strangers not knowing how to trust any, in Danger by the heathen, Reproached by Some of my own people & Nation, our Religion from our own conduct our Enthusiastick & uncharitable Notions became the Jest of ye wicked & profane. and had not God in his Great Goodness Directed Supported & Encouraged me I would fled from ye place as from an Enemy but I ever call'd upon him in trouble, & he never fail'd to help

To chuse a Session to please ye people & my Self and to unite their affections when ordain'd cost me much thought and labour and God granted that Blessing also which was the Strength & Stay of ye congregation. it was large by computation about thirty miles in length & Near twenty in breath the people agreed to have two Meeting houses Expecting they would become two congregations which is Now come to pass (this prior to my Relation to them)

That part Now called Tinkling Spring was most in Number & Richer than the other & forward had ye publick management of ye affairs of ye whole Settlement, their leaders pro'd Selfinterested contentious & ungovernable all of them closshanded about providing Necessary things for pious or Religious used, and could not agree for Several Years upon ye place or Manner where & how to build their Meetinghouse, which Gave me very Great trouble to hold them together their Disputes Rose So high

Difference happened between Coll. John Lewis & Coll. James Patton both living in that congregation which continued while they lived Which of them Should be highest in commission & power which was hurtfull to ye Settlement but Especially to me; they were Jealous of my interest with the people to Such a Degree that I could Neither Bring them to friendship with Each other Nor obtain both their friendshipes at once Ever after; they both had Good interest with ye people of their own party; and one of them always by turns bitter Enemies to me which was very hurtfull both to my peace & Interests, they by turns Narrowly watched Every Step of my conduct--marred my Support to ye utmost of their power--use their interest with ye people to Drive me from the place or starve me out for wont of Support. but to no purpose; for the people always intertain'd a Good opinion of me. My character alway Stood clear, tho they hurt my Estate very much this continued for 13 or 14 years till Coll. Patton was murdered by the Indians, at that time he was at peace with me, After his Death Coll. Lewis was friendly to me till he Died; here God maintain'd my cause & Supported me under base & cruel usage, but their wicked Devices Did not Die with them, My Estate Still Suffers by it and ye congregation continues a vacancy, the old contentious Spirit Still Remaining amongst them.

To give one of many instances how basely I was us'd Coll. Patton being a Magistrate, Sent his precept to the common constable an 100$ penalty to bring me immediately before his worship, Designedly to fall out on the Sabbath day ye constable as Soon as Divine Service was he carried me off (I knowing No cause or Reason for it) as the vilest criminal. when I appear'd before him he

asked me Some questions about a Run away Servant and what he had Reported I had Neither Seen ye man nor knew anything of ye matter. but his Design was to terrify & affront me, and provoke me to Speak Something in passion whereof he Might accuse me & Drive me from my charge and all this because I would Not become his creature to Serve his interest

But a Just God after he had born with him & prospered his Designs for a while Sent a Sommons for him unexpectedly Suddenly by merciless & cruel officers to answer more important questions & before a more awfull & Just Judge than he ask'd of me.

As to ye other part of the congregation Now called Augusta the people were fewer in Number & much lower as to their worldly circumstances; But a Good Natur'd prudent Governable people, and liberally bestowed apart of what God gave them for Religioum & pious uses & now Enjoy ye benefit in a Decent & becoming Manner, to their Great Satisfaction, Always unanimous among themselves loving & kind to me these thirty years, with whom I Enjoy'd ye Greatest Satisfaction & Serve them with pleasure. they Support me under the persecution (for it Deserves No better Name) of these ambitious men of the other part of the congregation I had No trouble with these about their Meetinghouse but to Moderate & Direct them when Mett: they Readily fixed on the place, & Agreed on ye plan for building it and contributed cheerfully mony & labour to accomplish the work; all in ye voluntary way, what Every man pleased.

These hints will Serve to bring to Rememberance the whole Scenes of toil labour & Suffering; and Satisfaction comfort & pleasure Enjoy'd till the war brok out when Coll. Washington was Defeated at Broad Meadows

Look Back O my Soul with Admiration wonder & love at the wise Dispensations of Providence perfectly calculated for thy Good & truest happiness.---here was a Rod to correct and a Staf to Support. thy heavenly father Saw both needfull for thee, & in love Sent them both to thee.

the Rod Gaurded thee from Pride luxury Self conceit; made thee watchfull, Diligent & faithfull in thy office; taught thee to live by faith Not by ye people's Subscriptions;kept thee a constant & Steady Dependent on heaven for wisdom & prudence, for Direction & patience, how to Speak, act, and Suffer, So as Not to offend God, or give offence to men: but to advance God's Glory, and promote the happinass of all the people of my charge Even these that treated thee ill

Remember how Every Renewed instance of their Malice Sent thee a fresh to thy heavenly Father crying help thy weak helpless child, Against Satan's Malice; and convince his unhappy instruments of their Sin and folly, & Support thee against their wicked Designs, & Defend this little New plot of thy vine yard from their Subtile Snares.--And has Not God Granted thee thy Request in a Great Measure

These were important and welcome Errants to the Throne of Grace, & brought thee; with an humble Sincere warm heart from a Real Sense of thy Need not a meer complimentive formal customary visit and when often heard & help'd.---brought thee, with a what Shall I Render to ye Lord for all his Benefits O what Sweetness came out of these Strong temptations and afflictions for thy Nurishment and Support.

And what a Strong Staf of comfort to thee when a kind God held up thy Goings in his paths; So as thy conduct & character Stood the touchstone of Envy it$elf, thine Enemies themselves being Judges, which Secured the hearts of the people and consequently thy usefullness amongst them

Heavenly father teach me to understand the language of thy Providences to me, and to believe the truth of thy word that Every providence Shall Work for Good to them that love & Rest on thee. O increase my faith to Receive & Rest on the Lord Jesus. Raise my hopes, give Strength Light & Desire to Do thy Will with pleasure & Delight, with courage & patience to go thro & Suffer what thou hast ordered in my lot, without fretting or complaints or calling thee in my very thoughts an hard Master.--

Lord I confess I have been A careless Sloathfull Servant And Surely Needed, and yet may Need, Such Spurs to Duty tho they be Not Joyous, Yet let my past Experience & what further light thou my please to give, convince & let me See clearly that corrections are tokens of thy fatherly love & care & when Sanctifyed to me prove means of my happiness, a cure to my Sin Sick Soul for ye Recovery of health & vigour in the Service of God that So I may Neither faint Nor be Discouraged under them, but being Still upheld by the Right hand of thy Righteousness I may preass thro Adversity, prosperity, yea Death itSelf, to thy heavenly kingdom & Glolry, Mercifull father hear and answer my Requests for Christ's Sake Amen

As to my private or Domestick State of life, when fix'd in ye congregation I found ye unseasonable calls, to visit the Sick, & baptize Sick children and ye like; prov'd trouble Some to ye place where I lodg'd, and Not willing to trouble othersI gave the More to my Self; which wearied me of that State of life. I then purchased a plantion, & began to improve upon it, and June 11:1744 married a young Gentle woman of a Good family & character

Born & brought up in ye Same Neighbourhood where I was born Daughter to Mr.George Russel: by whom I had nine children Six Now alive and three Dead, & have been both happy in ye Relation hetherto, tho Not without our troubles trials and afflictions our fortunes being Small we Endeavoured to increase it by our labour care and frugal Managment which we cheerfully comply'd with as our Necessity Required: but God was pleased to try us with many Sharp & Sore afflictions heavy to be born in our persons family & Estate.

Having prepared a little house we Sett up housekeeping having Neither Servant Nor Slave to help us, only Employing hirelings when we could find them; the toil of Serving our Selves we Esteem'd No Burden.

The first Distressing circumstance which happened to us was when My wife was Great with her first child Coll. Patton Sends ye constable with a precept of an 100[l] penalty to bring me before him None of us knew for what I was to be carri'd prisoner before him; My wife Never having Seen Ministers used in Such a Manner, Was very much terrify'd, fearing Some Dreadfull Evil She knew Not what, to befall me but Go I must & Did (but She took uneasie immediately) he had Some trifling questions to ask me when I had Resolved them he let me Go, I had about 14 miles home & found my wife in a very low condition in which She continue for five weeks with Some intervall till She was Delivered; During which time almost Every Night & Sometimes for ye Most part of the Night I had to Sit & hold her in My Arms, often Not knowing Whether She was living or Dead & none in the house but ourSelves; our Sufferings

we conceal'd as far as we possibly could, least we Should be made the Jest of Some that waited for our halting.' this was hard to bear, but God permitted Some thing harder to follow which Distressed me Even beyond Expression

While my wife was in labour which was tedious and hard I being alone in a little house Near where She was Sometimes Reading, Sometimes Meditating, and offering up my Requests to heaven Suitable to my present circumstances at that time; About Midnight I was Suddently taken with a Stupid Dulness & pressure of Spirit So that I could not connect two Sentences, together, Nor So much as Did God bless me, and ye most bitter hatred arose in my mind against ye wife of my Bosom and object of my tenderest love and the women all of them that was with her that I could wish'd house & all of them in it in one flame, but I knew not for what Reason or cause, only my mind flam'd with Rage & bitter Revenge against them: In broken thoughts I Saw my conduct was Wrong and fain would I have prayed to God to Deliver me from ye power of Satan but could Not Express one Sensible Sentence. the feurious agitation of mind so weakened & took away my Natural Strength y^{t} I could Scarce walk, tho I felt Neither bodily pain nor Sickness; when Day appear'd I Resolv'd to Runaway but knew Not where, Set out but was Not able to walk forty Rod in an hour, but No words can convey Just Ideas of that Dreadfull horror anguish & agony I was In, it continued about Six hours, & went off as Suddently as it came, tho I was weak for Some time

after: the case happened So that None knew of it but my Self which I was well Satisfy'd with Ever after.---nor Did I Ever before or Since feal any thing like it and I pray God may Never Suffer me to fall under Satan's Buffetings any More for it is merciless and cruel Indeed. Surely God permitt Satan to torment fill & inspire me with Evil thoughts & Designs to involve & Drive me into Some gross Sins & wickness to Destroy me, Soul & Body here God let me See, I had No power to Resist him of my Self; but he Restrained him & kept me from the Evil I might have Done, & Desired to Do--I Should have thought Satan took a wrong time and found me at a very Different Exercise from his purposes, yet at once carries his Designs as far as permitted, and that without any External cause or means, and in midst of love & pity for a dutifull wife in pangs of child Bearing and a keen Desire to See my first Born

Had Ever man a more convincing proof of his own inability against So powerfull & cruel an Enemy, and more Reason to Bless God who lead captivity captive was taken carried off Shut up, but he opened the Strong prison Doors & Set me free again the world about me knowing nothing of it. this happend May 29:1745

another trial very Sharp in its Nature, but Not like this former, My first born Died october 4:1745 being four months & Six days old which was a very Great Grief to us ye parents being again left alone.

In a few weeks after providence permitted New trials to fall in our way of a Different kind from these mention'd I had purchased a Stock of horses, breadmares, & cows ye Best I could find in ye Settlement upon which our little mony was laid out for our use

But in two or three weeks they all Died (I mean from the first y^t Died to last was Dead) I had Neither child horses Nor cow left me; Now in Job State Except his personal affliction I must travel a foot for No horse of my property that came on my plantation liv'd above three or four Days, I had Severals in the woods and brought them home as I had need when ye Rest was Dead but all of them Died I could Not Discover their Distemper tho I Search with all Diligance their carcases, Nor Did it Reach farther then my property It was court time, & we had many Strangers lodged with us taverans then being few their horse went & fed with ours when Dying with the Disorder but theirs were all Safe & well: & after Sometime when a friend lent me an horse to Ride it was Safe and well and So of all I had borrowed till Spring but what convinced me fully, My Brother liv'd with me on the place and our cattle pastur'd together all the Summer, and feed together always Night & Day and Not one of his Died tho they Eat that very food that mine had Slabbered upon & could not Eat when Dying; and they were all fat & Strong would Scarcely Eat fodder ye food in ye woods being then Good, it was in ye Month of December 1745

During that time my wife went & milk'd a fine young cow that gave a large quaintity of milk for Supper to our Selves & Some Strangers that was with us we all Supp'd plentifully and by morning light She went out & found that Same cow Dead Stife and cold, & this put us in Great fear least ye milk Should have affected us with ye Same Disorder but none of us was ye worse for it, only we feared of it

We feared that when the Stock was Destroyed we might Suffer in our persons Nothing Else being left us; but our fears was mercifully Disappointed and our worldly lass give us little trouble when we ourSelves were well. But that winter was Spent by us Melancholy Enough
It was then Reported that ye cattle was kill'd by witchcraft, and indeed for Several Reasons that appeared to me in observing that Scene of affairs I Realy thought then & Now; that God had permitted Satan and his Emissaries to Destroy them to try my patience and Dependence on God: but I conceal'd my opinion carefully Gaurding my whole conduct to my power So as Not to give offence to God or man; well knowing the Divel had higher Designs then to kill Brutes.
Another Report was Raised that I used charms and named Neighbours as the instruments of our loss both these were Directly false; yet more Effectualy answered Satans Designs against me; as it open'd a door for Some of my Adversaries who watched my Steps to alienate ye affection of my friends; who Speedily improved ye opportunity thinking they had now Gain'd their End Immediatly by their authority called & qualify'd wittnesses to prove these charges against me contrary to Justice or Equity as being both the accuser & Judge, but Greatly to my advantage, as they could find Nothing against me themselves being Judges which both confused & Disappointed them Greatly, hoping by that means they could have Driven me away with Shame & Disgrace, which they Desired to Do. But when my innocence appeared So clearly the people wondered at my prudence & patience under So many Sharp trials & hard treatment.---

God continued to Exercise me with trying Dispensations in my family; to teach me patience and Resignation to his will. but always mixed mercy & Goodness with chastisments He took my first child, & left ye Second with me; took ye third and left ye fourth with me; took ye fifth, & left ye Sixth with me: and gave me three More without any farther Breach to this Day.---Yet I found ye lesson Not Easy for Nature to learn: Reason & Religion could Silence Nature by arguments, But corrupt Nature could yet Sourly whisper in my mind--All I have are his, he may take them all if he pleases--A thought too Sullen to Evidence a free Resignation to ye will of God, which was Real Grief of heart to me, Especially as it might Justly provok even a mercifull God to inflect Sharper corrections to bend my Stuborn mind to obedience, which hitherto (I think) he has most mercifully averted, & yet brought ye mind to Resignation & contentment

As my family Encreased So Did my care & Expense to provide for them food & Raiment & what Education I could afford them as it was both Expensive & Difficult to be had in this wilderness ye people of my congregations was all New Settlers, & Generally of low circumstances their own Necessities called for all the labours, they could or Did Do little for my Support Except a few, and consequently fell Greatly in arear. Yet to avoid the vile Reproach of Greed commonly cast on ye clergy, & to prevent Reflections of Some who were No friends to my interest & of the Established Church willing to find anything to cast in our teeth of this kind.--I carefully observed Never to Demand Stipend, or for Marriage, or Supplying vacancies but when and what they pleased to give & Received thankfully as if it had been a meer Bounty tho I kept a Just & clear account of what I Received as all my people have freely acknowledged Yet one of my congregations Refuse to pay their Arear which they acknowledge to be Sixty nine pounds after I gave up my charge of that congregation Some years I modestly Desired them to pay ye Ballance Due this conduct obliged me & my family to be both industrious & frugal, and God So blessed our Endeavours, as we Enjoy

(In the absence of the final page or pages worn from the back of the original, the following is copied from Foote's Sketches of Virginia, Second Series, pages 32 & 33, is inserted here. H. M. W.)

What made the times distressing and unhappy to all the frontiers, was the French and Indian war, which lay heavy on us, in which I suffered a part as well as others. When General Braddock was defeated and killed. our country was laid open to the enemy, our people were in dreadful confusion and discouraged to the highest degree. Some of the richer sort that could take some money with them to live upon, were for flying to a safer place on the country. My advice was then called for, which I gave, opposing that scheme as a scandal to our nation, falling below our brave ancestors, making ourselves a reproach among Virginians, a dishonor to our friends at home, an evidence of cowardice, want of faith, and a noble Christian dependence on God, as able to save and deliver from the heathen; it would be a lasting blot to our posterity.

They required me to go before them in the work which I did cheerfully, though it cost me one-third of my estate. The people very readily followed, and my congregation in less than two months was well fortified.

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I, Victoria Isenhour, do hereby certify that the preceding pages numbered 1 through 38 and designated as the Autobiography of Rev. John Craig are a faithful copy of the original manuscript in the Historical Foundation of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches.

Victoria Isenhour
Copyist

Sworn and subscribed to before me this 23rd day of July 1949

Annie R. Hudson
Notary Public.

My commission expires 9-29-50